



**NEWS RELEASE
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TOWN HIRES NEW POLICE CHIEF

PURCELLVILLE, Va. April 29, 2015 — The Town of Purcellville has made their final selection for Police Chief and the position has been offered and accepted by Cynthia A. McAlister of Purcellville, Virginia. Ms. McAlister was selected from a candidate pool of over 54 officers representing federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. Ms. McAlister was chosen from a short list of ten extremely qualified candidates and was the unanimous recommendation of a specialized interview panel made up of members of the Town Council, citizens/business owners, management staff and members of our law enforcement community. Ms. McAlister and the Town of Purcellville worked out all of the terms of her employment on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 and she will be confirmed by Town Council at the regular meeting on May 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. McAlister and her family have spent more than a decade as residents in the Purcellville area and she has more than 33 years of law enforcement experience with the Fairfax County Police Department where she currently holds the rank of Major. During her sixteen years as a supervisor at command level positions, she has had the opportunity to work as a detective, serve as an Aid to the Chief's Office, Station Commander in the Sully District, Director of the Criminal Justice Academy, Commander of the Resource Management Bureau and currently serves as the Commander of the Patrol Bureau Division II. Her entire career has allowed her to receive broad experience on all operations of law enforcement. In addition, to her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from George Mason University, she completed the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Criminal Justice Certificate from the University of Virginia, IACP Leadership in Police Organization Instructor Certification along with the Police Executive Leadership School from the University of Richmond.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser stated, "Cynthia McAlister brings to our great community 33 years of law enforcement experience, coupled with unparalleled enthusiasm and commitment to community engagement and partnership. Cynthia holds firm on the principle that community policing should be in the blood and heart of all officers. Under Chief McAlister's leadership, we can expect continuation of some of our successfully implemented community programs along with new and innovative programs developed through collaboration between our citizens and our police department. We look forward to working with and supporting Chief McAlister in her endeavors to ensure the safety and security of our town."

According to Robert W. Lohr, Town Manager, “Chief McAlister will bring a wealth of law enforcement experience but more importantly, will help build on Purcellville’s safe environment, community engagement and quality of life that is so important to our residents and businesses. During the interviews, it became apparent to all serving on the committee that Chief McAlister is that special person that brings passion to our community outreach and support of her officers who work every day.”

Ms. McAlister and her husband, Mike have two children and she is active in the community and the local 4-H. Her first formal day on the job will be June 15, 2015. Upon accepting her post as Police Chief Ms. McAlister said, "I am honored to have been selected to serve as the Town of Purcellville's Chief of Police. I look forward to working with the residents, businesses, and the men and women of the Department to ensure the high quality of life that everyone enjoys in Purcellville."

The Town of Purcellville, Virginia

Purcellville is an award-winning town of nearly 8,300 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 40 miles west of Washington, DC. It has been honored for its green initiatives, most recently with the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities. The Town has an elected Mayor and six Town Council members. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, Purcellville has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, entertainment, farmer’s markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

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